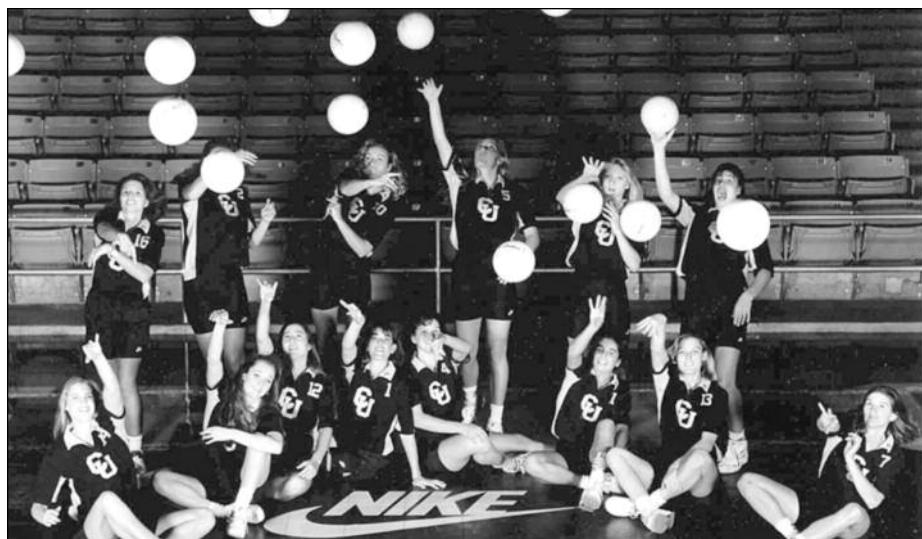
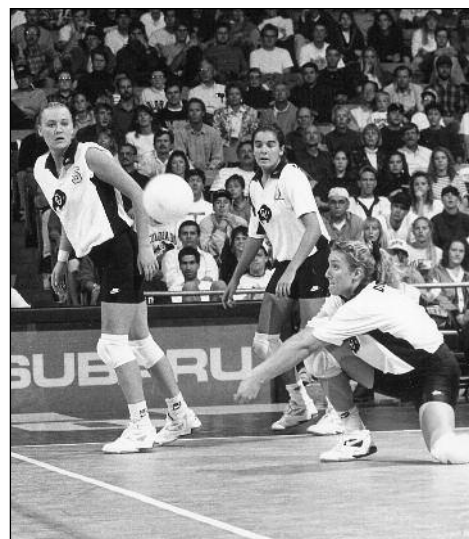


BIG EIGHT CONFERENCE CHAMPS



The Buffs 1993 Big Eight Championship Team

Standing (L to R): Brenda Bauernfeind, Janine Zumerchik, Karrie Downey, Leah Williams, Tracy Seiler, Kacey Engel, Sitting (L to R): Heather Sweeney, Jennifer Anderson, Tori Martin, Staci Wolfe, Rachel Wacholder, Shannon Parke, Nicole Vranesh.



Karrie Downey, Rachel Wacholder and Leah Williams

1993 Big Eight Champions

The 1993 University of Colorado volleyball team had set very lofty goals. They wanted to win the Big Eight regular season championship, repeat as Big Eight Tournament Champions, win all of their home matches and reach the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament.

Well, three for four isn't bad, especially given what the Buffs were up against.

The Buffs finished the season 26-6, still their best-ever record, and breezed through Big Eight play with an 11-1 record, winning their first-ever conference championship. Not bad given the fact in the 17-year history of Big Eight volleyball, the Buffs became just the second team to win a conference title behind Nebraska.

Wanting to validate both what they did in the regular season and what they did in the 1992 Big Eight Tournament, the Buffs then repeated as conference tournament champions. Going back to the 1992 conference tournament, Nebraska had only lost six times to conference opponents in its history, and the Buffs had just beat them for the third time in four outings for the tournament title.

The Buffs advanced to the NCAA tournament for the fourth time, and although they didn't reach the coveted Final Four, they did win the program's first-ever NCAA Tournament match, a three-game win over Illinois.

Nicole Vranesh and Karrie Downey (first-team) and Janine Zumerchik (second-team) all garnered all-District honors in 1993 and they were joined on the all-Big Eight team by Staci Wolfe.

Vranesh would leave as the Big Eight's all-time leading setter and one of its best competitors as she missed just one game in her last three years. That's one game, not match.

CU's Big Eight Tourney Champs

THE 1992 BIG EIGHT TOURNAMENT

The Buffs in 1992 did what nobody thought possible. In a conference tournament dominated by Nebraska, the Buffs went in and showed the country what CU volleyball was quickly becoming.

The Buffs finished 10-2 in the Big Eight regular season, losing to the Cornhuskers twice, and after beating Iowa State 15-9, 15-6, 15-6 in the first round, the showdown was on. The Buffs went in the match 0-15 lifetime against the Huskers and, in fact, they had lost only six matches in their history to a conference team.

It was a hard-fought 16-14, 15-11, 9-15, 15-8 win for the Buffs, who were paced by senior Michele Kohler (23 kills, 17 digs) and sophomore Karrie Downey (22 kills, 18 digs). Lots of other young Buffs had impressive matches, as well, with sophomores Staci Wolfe (15 kills, 21 digs) and Janine Zumerchik (13 kills, three blocks) and junior Nicole Vranesh (67 assists, 16 digs) doing most of the damage.

THE 1993 BIG EIGHT TOURNAMENT

After winning their first-ever Conference Championship in 1993, the Buffs came back and extended their conference tournament winning streak to four matches, as they proved they were, indeed, the best team in the Big Eight in 1993.

They finished the regular season 11-1, and after yet another first round defeat of Iowa State, this time 7-15, 15-8, 15-10, 15-7, the Buffs came back and had to go through the feared Huskers for their second straight tournament victory.

The match was close throughout, as the 7-15, 15-10, 9-15, 15-13, 15-11 score was a good indicator of this close match. Junior Karrie Downey led the attack with 25 kills and 27 digs, while sophomore Leah Williams had 14 kills and hit .345. Staci Wolfe finished off a solid tournament with 11 kills as did Janine Zumerchik. Freshman Rachel Wacholder chipped in 10 kills and 14 digs and senior Nicole Vranesh had 59 assists and 17 digs.